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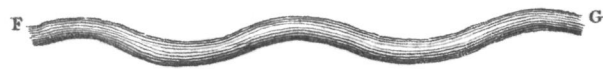
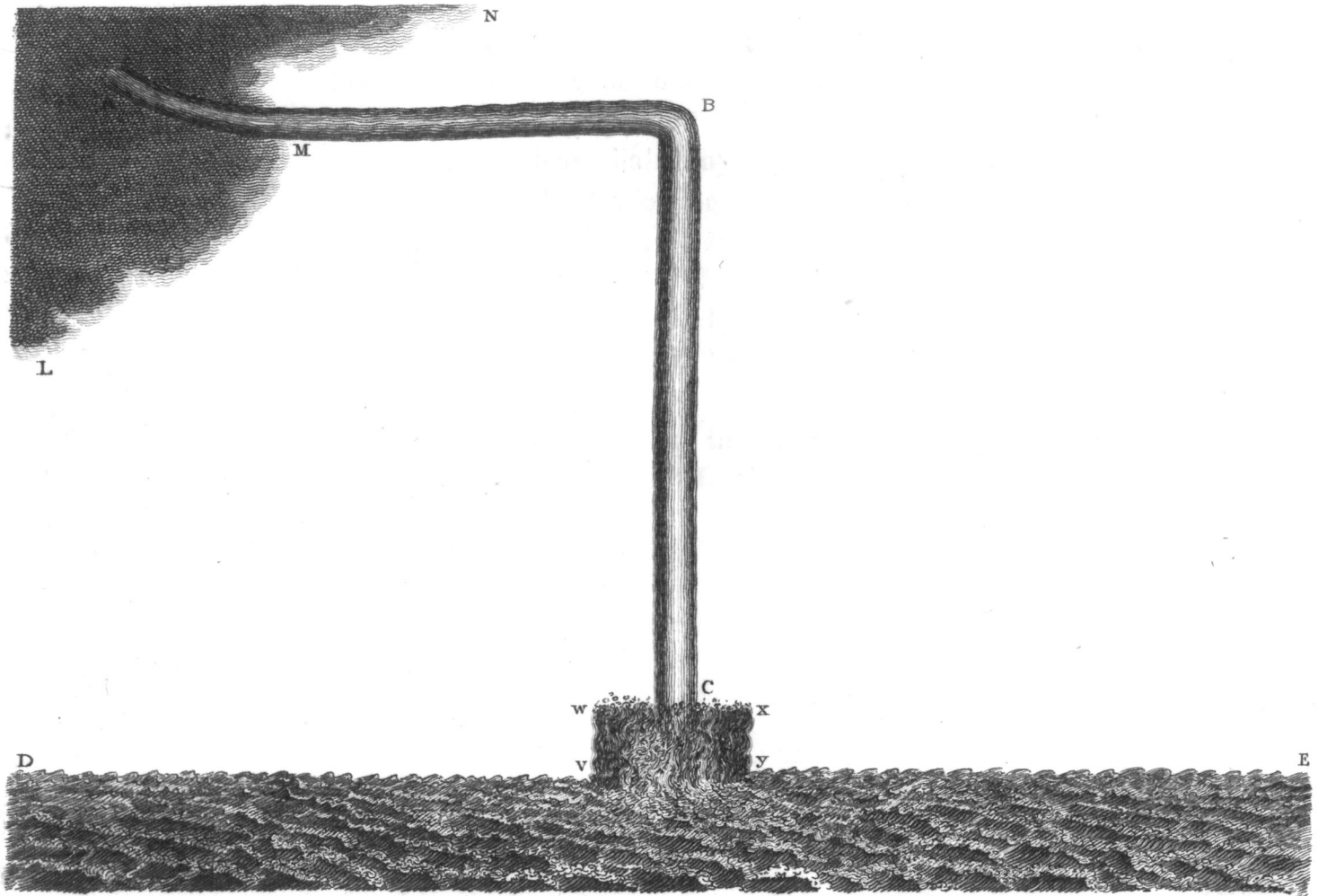
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An Account of a very remarkable WATER SPOUT, which appeared at Ramsgate, July 16, 1810, a little before 3 o'clock in the afternoon, just after a Thunder Storm; by the REV. S. VINCE, A. M. F. R. S. Plumian Professor of Astronomy and Experimental Philosophy at Cambridge.

IN the annexed figure, $L M N$ represents a cloud, in which there first appeared a figure in the form $F G$, resembling an huge serpent; this immediately stretched itself out in an horizontal direction $A M B$; at B it turned at right angles downward in the direction $B C$ to the sea $D E$, the sea immediately under it rising up in a cylindrical form $v w x y$ to meet it. The horizontal part, (which was straight), I judged to be about 3 or 400 yards long, and the perpendicular part $B C$ in the proportion now represented, the greatest diameter of which I estimated to be about 5 or 6 feet. It was attended with an hissing noise, and continued about 5 minutes, when it almost instantaneously disappeared, every part of it at the same time dissolving as it were into air, the water in the sea then ceasing to rise up. Water Spouts are an electrical phenomenon, lightning being sometimes seen to play in them. Perhaps this, which appears to be of a very singular form (for I have never seen such a one described), may be thus accounted for. If the cloud $L M N$, and the air at B were charged

with different powers, the spout might take the horizontal direction MB ; and if the air at B , and the sea immediately under it were also charged with different powers, the spout might take a perpendicular direction downward, and the sea rise up to meet it. The spout could not be water in its liquid state, for water in that state projected from the cloud, must necessarily have descended in a curve; and further, had it been water in that state, when the supply from the cloud ceased, from the ceasing of the cause, it would have disappeared gradually from the cloud, shortening till it vanished at the sea; whereas it vanished altogether almost instantaneously. From all the circumstances attending the spout, it appears that it was nothing but part of the cloud drawn out in a very condensed state, for although the cloud was very black, the spout was much blacker, the part in the cloud appearing very distinctly in the cloud itself. On this supposition we may account for the sudden disappearance of the spout; since, by the operation of the electric power, the watery vapour might be resolved into its two constituent airs, and thus disappear almost in an instant. All water spouts, as they are produced by the same cause, we may conclude to be of the same nature, that is, a very condensed watery vapour. They have, perhaps, been considered as water, from the torrents of rain which frequently attend them, so as to render it difficult to distinguish that from the spout; and also from the rising up of the sea where they fall, the effect being such as might arise from the falling of such a body of water as the spout has been supposed to be.